REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have not amended the claims by the present Response.

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary of the Office Action dated May 31, 2007 lists claims 1-23 as pending. Applicants point out that claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23 is the correct listing of pending claims. Applicants respectfully request appropriate correction.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,527).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in the following discussion.

I.   THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention is directed to a descriptor propagation system that includes a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor associated with a first content granularity, a descriptor propagation device that propagates the first descriptor to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity. The descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity.

Conventional systems and methods are not capable of allowing a user to annotate content at any granularity that is coarser than the granularity at which the annotation actually exists, where the system and method then propagates or maps the annotation to the appropriate content granularity. Thus, there has been an acute need for a system and method of developing coarse to fine descriptor propagation, particularly in the domain of multimedia content.

The present invention provides a system and method, which accepts a first descriptor

associated with a first content granularity and which then is capable of propagating the first

descriptor to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity. In

this manner, the present invention is capable of propagate a descriptor to an appropriate level

of granularity (the second content granularity) that is finer than the granularity at which the

descriptor was received (from the user or elsewhere).

Further, the present invention is capable of propagating the descriptor without prior

data regarding the descriptor at the second granularity.

II.   THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that Ishikawa teaches the claimed invention of claims 1-4, 6-13,

and 15-23. Applicants submit, however, that Ishikawa does not teach or suggest every

element of the claimed invention.

The Ishikawa et al. reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed

invention including propagating the descriptor without prior data regarding the descriptor at

the second granularity. As explained above, this feature is important for automatically

propagating a descriptor to an appropriate content granularity while only receiving the

descriptor at a different, coarser granularity (from, for example, the user). Indeed, Ishikawa

does not teach or suggest propagating a descriptor.

The claimed invention is directed to a method (and system) of propagating (e.g.,

assigning) annotations to an image. The method (and system) allows a user to assigned

annotations (e.g., 302, 304, 306, and 308; Applicants submit that exemplary reference

numbers are merely provided for the aid of the Examiner and are not meant to limit the scope

of the claimed invention in any manner) to a video image (e.g., 300) (e.g., see Application at

Figures 3-5).

In stark contrast to the claimed invention, Ishikawa does not teach or suggest propagating any descriptor at all.

Rather, Ishikawa merely discloses a method of extracting specific feature areas (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) of a facial image and outputting the specific feature area to a separate image. Ishikawa, however, does not teach or suggest assigning annotations to the original facial image or to the specific features in the original facial image.

Ishikawa does <u>not</u> teach or suggest propagating any descriptor at all, let alone propagating <u>any descriptor to another content granularity without prior data regarding that descriptor at the second content granularity</u>.

Accordingly, Ishikawa does <u>not</u> teach or suggest "*a descriptor propagation device that propagates the first descriptor to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity, and wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity*", as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 4, 8, 10, 12, 16-17 and 20-23.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23.

III.   FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.
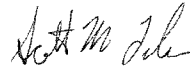
Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance,

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Applicants authorize the Examiner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: __August 31, 2007___

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